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SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

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JUNE, 1947



MOUNT OLYMPUS FROM BAILEY RANGE TRAIL

NPS Photo.

PUBLISHED BY THE SIERRA CLUB



Sample—Don't Sell

It's the last item of its kind that we have in stock, and it won't be replaced, if we let it go, for about a thousand years—if then. We are speaking of the unique forest on the Olympic Peninsula, in Washington, that conservationists throughout the nation sought to protect in a national park—in Olympic National Park. It took a lot of hard work and inspiration to secure national-park protection for it, but they were up to the job.

Now, however, it would seem that the conserver's winnings are about as hard to keep as the gambler's. The Board Foot and Pulp Men and their dependents who didn't like the park idea in the first place haven't conceded victory. They want to see that forest out of the park and cut down. To them a down-and-out forest is a thing of economic beauty, whereas a virgin stand is just a prime example of nature's waste. All trees should be cut when they mature, and should not be allowed to get overripe. Nor should anything stand in the way of a mature tree when they take it out. There's a lumber and pulp shortage; prices are high now; virgin timber is the most profitable to cut. Cut it all.

We must be unstinting in our praise of good forest practice where it exists, and it does exist. But we must continue the battle—begun a century too late—against wanton destruction of the nation's forests; and in continuing, we have the support of men and industries and agencies who practice good forestry and who do not relish the competition of those who don't practice it and can thereby sell their lumber and pulp cheaper. There is urgent need for wood products, and we must use forests efficiently to fill it.

But we don't have to send all our virgin forests where we almost sent the buffalo any more than San Francisco has to build mimeo-

graphed houses the length and breadth of Golden Gate Park. Citizens the country over would rightfully deplore the hydro-electrification of Yosemite's waterfalls or the setting up of a grapestake industry in the Sequoia National Park Big Trees. They should as rightfully deplore the proposal of Olympic Peninsula lumber towns, whose mills are geared to processing more timber than they will let nature grow, that these mills should be given a few more years' lease on life at the expense of one of the nation's most splendid park-land forests. Some of the timber men, in pending legislation, have brought pressure on the Park Service to let them get their hands on one virgin tree out of seven; still others prefer to write their own ticket. We need no crystal ball to foresee where these demands will lead.

Looking back a few decades, we are reminded that the very towns now profitably serving as gateways to Yosemite were strongest in opposition to the creation of Yosemite National Park. They didn't want land taken from the tax rolls, or men put out of work. If those towns can today blush at their lack of vision, is it not incumbent upon the Olympic towns to spare themselves tomorrow's blush? If they will not, and if we must therefore choose between ghost town and ghost forest (which would soon take the town with it), is the choice a hard one to make?

The West today knows many a ghost town where men of too much enterprise once cleaned up and cleared out. Even those who failed to clean up were not the real losers. It was the inanimate, played-out land that suffered—the lifeless land and all the life it might have supported but cannot.

DAVID R. BROWER

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Olympic National Park Seriously Threatened

The superb forests of Olympic National Park, which form a fringe between the snowline of the peaks within the park and the denuded forest lands just outside of it, are again the objective of the lumber operators. Unfortunately, this is but one of many concerted attacks by commercial interests to acquire public lands for private benefit. Similar attacks are being made upon the administration of public lands by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior in all parts of the West through bills introduced by grazing, mining, power, and water interests. The Olympic threat is, however, the most spectacular.

Five bills now before Congress have been introduced to dismember Olympic National Park. The effect of these bills will be to turn over to the Forest Service thousands of acres of land and billions of board feet of magnificent timber of a *national* park, belonging to all the people, for the purpose of turning trees into dollars, benefiting a few. Under the emotional appeal of "veterans' housing" large timber operators seek to exploit public land for personal profit for a few more years. If stumpage within the park is relinquished and the area is logged over, lumber and pulp interests will continue to press for additional stumpage until by piecemeal withdrawals they will have used up the forests. Eventually, when the park timber gives out, the economic readjustments, reforestation, and sustained-yield practices so badly needed at the end of the first world war will be forced upon the lumber industry. It makes better sense and is better business to begin these practices now, before Olympic National Park—or any national park—is denuded of its finest forests.

If, indeed, the United States of America



Fir and hemlock forest, Olympic National Park.
NPS photo.

has so depleted its timber resources that we must use our national *parks* for timber, then before reducing our growing stock to the danger point by continued cutting of virgin timber, we had better bring our forest income and expenditure into balance.

The struggle over the San Gorgonio Primitive Area has made us realize how little wilderness still remains in the United States. It is clear that with the increasing mechanization of our civilization we need more areas of refuge, not fewer. The constant pressure of civilization results in a slow but steady invasion of the small areas of wilderness that remain. If San Gorgonio is lost to ski-resort use, portions of Yosemite National Park for power and water, and portions of Olympic National Park for lumber, there is no reservoir of wilderness from

which we can obtain replacements. Once a part of the wilderness is lost, it is gone forever and cannot be replaced. The Bogachiel-Calawah-Hoh area, marked for elimination from the Olympic National Park, contains 34,000 acres of superb wilderness.

We are therefore opposed to and will vigorously fight the enactment of the bills now before Congress to eliminate from the Olympic National Park any of the lands now included therein.

What the Bills Provide

S. 711, Magnuson of Washington.—*This bill would eliminate approximately 6,000 acres of privately owned timber along the Quinault River in the southwestern part of Olympic National Park.*

While it is realized that private lands in that area within the National Park complicate the administration of the park, it would seem more desirable to look far into the future, 50 or 100 years from now, when the need for national parks will be greater than ever, and proceed at this time to acquire Federal ownership to these private properties (cut over though they may be), rather than to eliminate a lakeshore and valley that form the natural gateway to the southwest portion of the Park.

H. J. Res. 84, Norman of Washington.—*This is an exceedingly dangerous bill set up for the express purpose of determining "what areas, if any, should, in the judgment of the Commission, be withdrawn or excluded from the Olympic National Park in order to render locally and nationally the maximum public benefits. . . ."*

The commission that is to decide in the first instance what acreage shall be used for timber and what (principally above timber line) shall be left as National Park "for scenic attractions, recreation, or as the habi-

tat of wild life," has been carefully chosen in the bill. The nine members of the "Commission on the Olympic National Park" will consist of representatives of the following:

- 1) The West Coast Lumbermen's Association
- 2) The loggers' union
- 3) Sawmill towns to the north
- 4) Sawmill towns to the south
- 5) The State of Washington
- 6) Washington agricultural interests
- 7) United States Forest Service (which would receive the lands)
- 8) National Park Service
- 9) National Parks Association

It can thus be seen that the Commission is heavily weighted in favor of eliminating as much as possible from the Olympic National Park. The park's superb areas of primeval forests have values that transcend common measurements, but it so happens that they are also known to include some 18 billion board feet of timber, according to forest service estimates. Already the lumber interests indicate that they will not be satisfied without destroying enough of these park values to cut at least 9 billion board feet, the remainder being too high on the ridges or too small to be cut at a good profit.

H. R. 2750 and 2751, Norman and Jackson of Washington.—*These bills offer a compromise of 2½ billion board feet of timber for sacrifice to the timber operators.*

With indications that conservationists throughout the country were organizing a strong and effective fight against the entire principle of exploitation of public resources for private benefit, it became apparent even to the Congressional representatives of the lumber interests that it might be better to achieve the total goal of 9 billion board feet of timber in two or three bites, rather than to risk public disapproval by seeking it all at

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Large spruce tree, typical of many which have started on fallen giants of the rain forests of the Olympic National Park. NPS photo.

Largest known standing Douglas fir, 17 feet 8 inches in diameter, broken off at 210 feet and 4 feet in diameter there. Queets River, Olympic National Park. NPS photo.

once. A compromise was therefore effected whereby 56,396 acres of land and 2½ billion board feet of timber would be eliminated from the Olympic National Park by the identical bills, H. R. 2750 and 2751. The Department of the Interior and the National Park Service felt obliged to propose these bills as an alternative to the formation of the dangerously biased "fact-finding" commission provided by H. J. Res. 84. The Park Service points out that cut-over private lands within the National Park along the Quinault River at the southwest corner of the park are not now of national park standard and make administration of the park difficult. The elimination of public and private lands in that area would total 18,185 acres with 578 million board feet of timber. The

Park Service would also like to establish the park boundary on the southwest along the ridge crest between the Queets River and the drainage to the south, and eliminate 4,270 acres of park land that lie a short way down the Forest Service side of that watershed. This boundary correction would, incidentally, provide 79 million board feet of additional timber. No sound reason has yet been advanced for the elimination of the Bogachiel-Calawah-Hoh area, totaling 33,941 acres and nearly two billion board feet of timber on the western extremity of the park. That area consists of splendid rain forest in a true wilderness.

S. 1240, Cain of Washington.—This is a companion bill to H. R. 2750 and 2751, covering identical land.

Must We Log Our Parks?

The forest fringe of Olympic National Park is hardly more than a museum specimen to show to future generations the magnificence of the rain forest that originally covered much of western Washington and Oregon.

The total stand of timber in Olympic National Park is estimated by the Forest Service and National Park Service as only 18 billion board feet of timber of all kinds. At the beginning of 1945 the United States had 1601 billion board feet of timber and would need only 1700 billion as growing stock to sustain an annual cut of all the timber products that the United States would be apt to need during this century. In the West alone we still had 1043 billion, and half of that was in the Douglas fir belt of western Washington and Oregon. *Under these circumstances it would be unwise and harmful to the national interest to sacrifice 2½ billion board feet of national park caliber timber to the deforestation surrounding the park for the temporary expedient of avoiding economic readjustments that should be undertaken as early as possible.*

After three centuries of wasteful exploitation of our forests, we have finally realized that they are exhaustible. Last December the Forest Service, in co-operation with state foresters, the American Forestry Association, and other public and private agencies, completed a reappraisal of our timber resources. One portion of the report, entitled "Gaging the Timber Resource of the United States," lists the forest assets at the beginning of 1945 and analyzes future prospects. Our forests are indeed in bad condition, and, surprisingly enough, Canada's are too. There is a world shortage of timber; no forest resources can be recklessly squandered. Bear with a few statistics:

1. Our own timber now shows a net growth

—above disease and other forest losses—of 35 billion board feet of saw timber per year. Our 1944 cut was 54 billion; the 1945 stock was 1601 billion. If the 1944 drain and cutting practice continues for another twenty years, then by 1967 only 1166 billion feet of growing stock will remain. We shall then be in an exceedingly serious position.

2. However, if steps are taken now to improve forest management and to reduce the annual cut by about 4½ billion board feet (after the present housing shortage is alleviated), the growing stock can gradually be increased to a total of 1700 billion, which could provide, with good forest management, 72 billion board feet of new growth each year. This would achieve a truly *sustained yield* and provide all the wood products that a prosperous population of 165-185 million might reasonably be expected to use.

3. With our present forest acreage, according to the Forest Service, we can achieve that goal. The portion most suitable for forest production is about 624 million acres. Of this, 150 million acres are nonproductive—too high, too rough, or too dry. A small portion (13 million acres) is now included in parks, monuments, and similar preserves. The remaining 461 million acres are enough to produce the sustained yield of 72 billion board feet; the report states that this acreage "is ample if put to work under reasonably good timber management."

The Real Danger

But here is the real danger: that same "reasonably good timber management" may be disastrously postponed if we draw upon the forest "capital" and deplete our growing stock; extreme sacrifices will then have to be made to restore it. The Forest Service states, "It is important that the virgin stands be

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cut at a rate and in a manner that will best promote further growth. . . . Without good forest practice and farsighted planning in the West for both private and public lands, waning of the virgin timber supply may usher in a long period when annual saw timber growth will fall far short of the goal and short of what is needed to sustain the timber industries there. This has already happened in some localities, notably in the Puget Sound and Grays Harbor areas of western Washington."

The report continues, "We must recognize that the special values inherent in the high quality of the virgin timber can never be replaced. We should balance the need to maintain output of forest products against the desirability of making the high-quality virgin timber last just as long as possible. . . . A major effect of the depletion and deterioration of our forests has been a decrease in the size of logs coming to our sawmills. . . . As log size gets smaller, manufacturing costs go up and sawmill operation becomes more precarious. . . . Another effect of timber depletion is the loss of the larger sawmills which have dominated the situation in each region while the virgin timber was being exploited. In the East the time when the closing of large mills was a critical aspect of the situation is now past, and there are not many large mills left that will have to shut down for lack of timber. . . . In the West, however, the effects of local timber shortages are now being felt in full force. A most striking situation exists in the Douglas fir region of the Pacific Northwest, which is at present the country's leading lumber-producing region. When the region expanded to serve other than local markets, mills, generally of large size, were set up on the larger waterways—Puget Sound, Columbia River, Grays Harbor. Plant capacity, based upon

liquidation of the virgin timber, far exceeded the volume of cut that could be permanently sustained. Consequently, as the original timber holdings of the operating companies have played out, new opportunities to acquire stumpage have become increasingly scarce. Many plants have already been forced to close down. . . . *Cutting of publicly owned timber will help, but it will not solve the problem.* Obviously, loss of more mills, with attendant economic readjustments, is inevitable." (Italics ours.)

It has been stated that the present capacity of the local mills, 100 million board feet per year, could be maintained on a sustained yield basis, if 9 billion board feet of the finest and most accessible timber of Olympic National Park were turned over to logging. It has also been stated that it is not economic to attempt to operate on any less production. But as has been pointed out, readjustment to smaller sized mills has long since been made in the East and the South, because of improvident cutting long ago. Almost 25,000 of the 29,000 sawmills operating in 25 Eastern and Southern states during 1944 cut less than 1 million board feet each, yet together they produced over 5½ billion board feet of the lumber cut for those states. The Forest Service states, "Given the benefit of good management and modern equipment, small mills could greatly facilitate good forest practice." Such mills would be able to adjust themselves to operate effectively upon the remaining stands of timber in the area until reforestation and other improved forest practices would permit larger operations in the future on what would truly be a sustained-yield basis.

Mills should be reduced to fit the forest; the national-park forests should not be cut to feed the present mills. You don't cut the foot to fit the shoe.

National Park Need Grows

The population of the United States is expected to be 185 million by the year 2000 (when Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks and the Sierra Club will be twice as old as they are now). *The constantly increasing pressure of that population, particularly in the West, will make it imperative that we have more parks, not fewer. We must anticipate that need. It is our turn to use foresight, if we are to have them.*

Each of the national primeval parks has been created to protect a unique natural feature that is eminently worth saving—Yosemite for its cliffs and waterfalls, Sequoia for its Big Tree groves and Kern River highlands, Kings Canyon for its High Sierra terrain, Rainier for its flora and glaciers, Yellowstone for geysers and wildlife, and so on. Prior to the formation of the Park, the glaciers and high mountain country of the Olympic Peninsula were well protected in the Mount Olympus National Monument, established in 1909. The prime necessity for creating the Olympic National Park, only ten years ago, was for the permanent protection of outstanding, low-altitude rain forest. This is indeed the forest primeval. No protection has been afforded to like forests, and this is the last remnant. Nowhere else can a rain forest be found with so splendid a setting, so fine a wilderness character, and such supremely dense and luxuriant growth. The ax already has, or soon will, cut the others.

It should be clear from the fine photographs in these pages that the Bogachiel-Calawah-Hoh area on the western extremity of the park is magnificent forest of high national-park caliber. This area contains some of the largest and finest of the spruce and Douglas fir remaining on the continent. A true wilderness, it forms a portion of the winter range of one of the large herds of

Roosevelt Elk for which the Olympic National Park is famous.

The only administrative problem that seems to have been discussed in connection with that area is the long line of nine sections of land on the south bank of the Bogachiel River, known as the "Forest Service Exchange Strip." This strip was originally owned by large lumber companies at the time of creation of the park. As a result of conferences between Interior and Agriculture, the Forest Service has undertaken to acquire the lands within this strip by exchange of other forest properties elsewhere, so that the strip could be added to the national park.

The Forest Service has now accomplished that directive for all but 760 acres. With that possible exception, no reason (other than the present political situation) is known why this strip cannot now be added to the park, entirely eliminating any substantial "administrative" problem of the National Park Service in that area.

The efforts of conservationists throughout the country and of all people who are interested in the future of fifty years from now should be to round out the park by addition of suitable areas such as the Bogachiel exchange strip and the former Olympic Primitive Areas on the east and southeast boundaries of the park, rather than to relinquish some of the finest forests of the park. Even though such additions may be politically impractical at the present time, we should not now enter into compromises which would make forever impossible the finest National Park we can afford to maintain. We can always use those resources if we have to. We can never recreate them in their present glory once they are gone.

RICHARD M. LEONARD,
Secretary, Sierra Club.

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DAVID R. BROWER, *Editor*HARRIET T. PARSONS, *Associate Editor*

Ansel Adams, Barbara Bedayn, Arthur H. Blake, Joan Clark, August Fruge, Weldon F. Head, Charlotte Mauk, Marion Parsons, Dorothy Sandstrom, Vivian Schagen, Blanche Stallings, Stella Swenson.

Editor's Miscellany

San Gorgonio. The Forest Service has not announced any decision yet. It is understood that the undivulgued recommendation of the California region has only recently been forwarded to Washington; the task of going through all the evidence has been that monumental. According to the *Los Angeles Times* for April 9, the latest organization to add its voice in opposing the modification of the primitive area is the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, which was more considerate of water users than the State Chamber proved itself to be.

Growth. Before the war the club seemed to be headed for a membership of 5,000, but never quite made it. The postwar period has seen that mark left in the dust.

The figures for May 1, 1947, are as follows:

San Francisco Bay	3,080	Mother Lode	155
Southern		Riverside	79
California	1,774	General	256
Loma Prieta	343	Pending	189

This, in case you haven't already added it up in your head, makes a grand total of 5,876, a postwar increase of well over a thousand.

Olympus. Any inhabitants of the American namesake of the abode of the gods are looking down on a battle royal, in which we hope all 5,876 members take their part. We would rather not have to devote these pages so often to a general ringing of alarms, inasmuch as the dust hasn't settled on San Gorgonio yet. But these are more trying times than usual on the conservation front. Too many exploiters, discovering at last the value of the conservation gains of the last sixty years or so, are looking upon them as a bonanza to claim as their own. We believe that a strong stand in opposition to the planned raid on Olympic National Park will strengthen conservation on all fronts.

Publications will play one role in the Sierra Club's part. This bulletin contains a self-sufficient 16-page section on the Olympic threat which will be available as reprints at 10 cents each, \$5.50 a hundred, \$50.00 a thousand. We want them to go where they will do the most good, and we ask the help of members of all conservation clubs.

Sixteen pages can't give much background, but the May annual magazine number of the *Bulletin* has a list of contributors that constitutes an honor roll in conservation. Study that, review the basic arguments brought out in our San Gorgonio bulletins (January, February, and March), read this issue carefully, and see what you can do to help. The men who built the club have done their share. Now "it's our turn to use foresight."

D. R. B.

Pending Legislation Draws Board Attention

Anyone who wonders about the purposes of the Sierra Club might have done well to look in on the Directors' meeting in San Francisco on May 3. There would have been no room for doubt: the Sierra Club is a conservation organization.

Discussions ranged from current threats against public lands to the surveying of ski areas, and plans were made for work in support of the Olympic National Park and the Jackson Hole National Monument.

So numerous were the conservation problems to be considered, and so deep the Board's concern over them, that even the traditional order of business was altered and many reports ordinarily given orally were omitted, so that full attention might be given to pending legislation.

Routine business was dispatched quickly, for all incumbent officers were re-elected, all committees were reappointed, former honorary vice-presidents were re-elected and the names of Joel H. Hildebrand, Duncan McDuffie, and Randall Henderson were added to the list. The Executive Committee of the Board thus remains the same: President, Bestor Robinson; Vice-President, Phil S. Bernays; Secretary, Richard M. Leonard; Treasurer, Walter L. Huber; Fifth Member of Committee, William E. Colby.

First of a number of matters discussed by the Board was what President Robinson characterized as the "problem of Private Interests vs. Public Lands," and included consideration of Senate Bills 33 and 34, and House Joint Resolution 84.

These bills have in common direct or indirect threats to wise long-range use of certain lands in the national forests, parks, and monuments. Secretary Leonard pointed out that S. 33 and S. 34 attack the administration

of the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior with respect to grazing. He explained that although there have been many misstatements about the bills, they are "part of a general national attack by private interests—lumber, grazing, power, water, and to some extent mining—on public domain to get as much as possible for themselves."

The present wording of the bills appears harmless.

Provision is made for setting up local advisory boards before whom local holders of permits to graze public lands, and primarily national-forest lands, could be heard with respect to any decreed changes in their permits. In the discussion of the bill it was brought out that although stockmen could justly hope that their permits, and the livestock industry based on them, should not be subject to revocation at the whim of a government agency, still the government agency concerned—primarily the Forest Service—had over many years built up a splendid record of just range management; government regulation of the publicly owned ranges should not be unduly encumbered or weakened, because its weakening had inevitably been followed by serious range deterioration, wherever in the world that regulation was weakened. Further, other conservation organizations and the Forest Service recognized in this the spearhead of an unwise attack on proper government regulation, whatever the present wording of the bills in question might be, and the bills were dangerous if for no other reason than their context of hostility. Moreover—and on this point hinged the Board's final unanimous opposition to the bills—if advisory boards are to be set up for one user of national forests (i.e., the grazing interests), they should be set up for

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all (i.e., including lumber, water, recreation), and in no event should be so vulnerable to local prejudice as to imperil national interest nor should they be given administrative authority.

There was lengthy discussion of the various proposals to release timber lands in the Olympic Park for logging, and a motion was passed unanimously that the Sierra Club oppose the relinquishment of any portion of the existing Olympic National Park. It was also planned to take active steps to prevent abolition of the Jackson Hole National Monument, including a request for the active support of the Club membership should the bill be reported out of committee favorably.

In the absence of Treasurer Huber (his third absence in thirty-three years!), most financial matters, including the budgets requested in reports submitted by various committees, were postponed for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee. It was necessary, however, to act immediately on the request of the Southern California Chapter for an increased rental appropriation so that additional space now available adjacent to the present office could be obtained. Such expansion would permit suitable housing of the Shand library and provide more space for committee meetings. It was voted to take advantage of the opportunity.

There was some discussion on S. 891, now before Congress, which provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall take such action as necessary to provide for control of predators in Mount McKinley National Park. The Conservation Committee had recommended that the bill be opposed; it was felt that it was inappropriate for Congress to instruct the Park Service on a detail of wildlife management. Because of its com-

plexity the matter was tabled for further study.

The Board discussed the report prepared by Robert Lipman for the committee appointed to study concession policy in national parks. The report recognized that only facilities and activities consistent with national-park purposes should be permitted; it also took into account the concessionaires' need to realize reasonable profit on investment. The report recommended that contracts and administration should be such that the Park Service would have the power to enforce its own regulations as well as the performance of the contracts on the part of the operators, to the end that the original purpose of the parks be accomplished. The report was unanimously approved and adopted, and the committee was thanked for its work. The committee is to continue.

Because the wording of the purposes of the Sierra Club is frequently misinterpreted —to the embarrassment of the Club—David R. Brower, chairman of the Editorial Committee, requested authority to edit out the words "render accessible" whenever there is not adequate opportunity to explain fully their present-day meaning (teaching people to use properly the existing means of access to mountain regions). To this the Board was agreeable. Mr. Farquhar suggested that it might be well to have our Articles of Incorporation amended, and a motion was passed that the Editorial Committee make up an appropriate statement for the Board to act upon at its next meeting.

Secretary Leonard reported that the State Department planned for an Inter-American Conference on Renewable Natural Resources to be held in May of 1948. He recommended the appointment of a committee to plan for the club's participation.

Mr. Leonard told of the request by the

Regional Engineer, Sixth Army, for a ten-year lease of the Sierra Club's Azalea Lake property lying in the Castle Creek watershed. The Army is undertaking to lease all the land in that watershed so that it cannot be logged during the course of an intensive study of the relationship between snowfall and runoff with respect to flood control. Mr. Leonard recommended that the Board authorize a ten-year lease of the land in question to the United States of America (with certain provisions for protection of the club's interests), and it was voted that the officers of the club be empowered to execute the lease.

There was a brief discussion of the San Jacinto and San Gorgonio problems, but there was no action that the Board could take on either matter at the time.

It was reported that no contract can be let for Kings Canyon development this year because of lack of funds for such purposes.

It was voted that the Sierra Club permit the Vanguard Press to use the Starr map of the John Muir Trail in its forthcoming publication in the Mountain Series, *Range of Light: The Sierra*.

Mr. Clark, reporting for the Winter Sports Committee, told of the year's activities, and described a tentative plan to determine how many members of the Sierra Club are skiers.

Mr. Clark also told of work being done on a comprehensive survey of snow areas suitable for ski development; the work includes aerial photographs of many regions, and is being made possible through the co-operation of club member Lowell Sumner, biologist-aviator-photographer.

He described a project under way to build a ski hut as a memorial to Jack Benson, part of the expense of which is to be defrayed by the Benson family. Both summer and winter surveys of the region in which

the hut is to be built—south of highway 40—have resulted in tentative selection of a site near the top of Mount Anderson. The type of construction is being studied but has not yet been decided upon. Mr. Robinson raised the question of responsibility for building the hut. It was voted that the Winter Sports Committee be authorized to determine the location and design of the Benson Hut, and that the president be authorized to either appoint a special committee or delegate to an existing committee the responsibility for construction. Mr. Clark also reported that a Shand Memorial Hut is to be constructed somewhere south of Yosemite, but that a site had not yet been decided upon; study is now being made in order to find a suitable location.

Arthur H. Blake reported on the current status of the Joshua Tree National Monument, and commented that some progress has been made toward land exchange for the improvement of the Monument.

Brief discussion of the matter of additional roads led to a resolution that the Sierra Club does not favor any trans-Sierra road between Tioga Pass and Walker Pass.

The fine work done by Arthur H. Blake and the Conservation Committee was praised highly. It is through the work of this committee that many of the important items on the agenda of the directors' meeting had been previously studied sufficiently to be given proper consideration at the meeting.

It was voted that William S. Shand, D. Hanson Grubb, and Walter A. Starr be made patron members of the Sierra Club, in recognition of their contributions to the Club.

The next meeting was set for the Sunday preceding Labor Day, at Cedar Grove in Kings Canyon National Park.

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About Bills: Sheep, Parks, and a Monument

Dall Sheep (H.R. 2863; Mr. Miller, Nebraska).—Protects the Dall Sheep, caribou and other wildlife in the Mount McKinley National Park Area in Alaska. Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, March 31. This is the companion bill to S. 891, reported in the April *Bulletin*. S. 891, however, was referred to the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

Jackson Hole (H.R. 3035, Mr. Peterson, Florida).—Provides for payments to the State of Wyoming and for rights-of-way, including stock driveways, over and across Federal lands within the exterior boundary of the Jackson Hole National Monument. Referred to Public Lands, April 14. This is an effort to settle the Jackson Hole controversy by providing payments to counties in lieu of taxes and right of ingress and egress on lands within the monument.

Shasta (H.R. 3175, Mr. Engle, California).—Adds certain lands to the Shasta National Forest in California. Referred to Public Lands, April 23.

Land withdrawals (S. 32, Senator McCarran, Nevada).—Amends the act entitled "An Act to authorize the President of the United States to make withdrawals of public lands in certain cases" approved June 25, 1910, as amended. Referred to Public Lands, January 6.

Quetico-Superior (S. 1090, Senators Thyne and Ball, Minnesota).—Sets aside certain lands and waters in the Superior National Forest for the proposed Quetico - Superior International Park. Referred to Agriculture and Forestry, April 11. This is a companion bill to H.R. 2642 reported in the April *Bulletin*.

Acadia transfer (S. 1220, Senator Gurney, South Dakota).—Authorizes the transfer from the Department of the Interior to the Department of the Navy certain lands now included in the Acadia National Park in Maine. Referred to Public Lands, May 2.

Action on Bills Previously Reported

Roosevelt Park (H.R. 731).—The bill establishing the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in Mendora, North Dakota, was signed by President Truman April 25.

Jackson Hole (H.R. 1330).—Beginning on April 14 a subcommittee of the House Public Lands Committee held hearings for three days on the Barrett Bill to abolish the National Monument which had been established by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Many witnesses were heard. Former Governor Miller in opposing the Bill suggested that the monument be reduced by moving its Eastern boundary to the east bank of the Snake River, cutting off the portion above Jackson Lake. Since the adjournment of the Hearings, Governor Hunt of Wyoming has written Congressman Barrett favoring such a compromise. Some others at the hearings thought a modification of the boundaries would be advisable. It is probable that this view will be taken by the committee.

Quetico-Superior Park (H.R. 2642).—To create the Quetico-Superior International Park. Hearings were held late in April. No opposition was voiced and committee members expressed a sympathetic interest which promises a favorable report. The only point of dispute was in regard to annual payments in lieu of taxes.

JOHN R. BARNARD, Secretary
Conservation Committee

Last Minute News

Hearings have been held on the bills H.R. 2750 and H.R. 2751 to transfer certain lands in the Olympic National Park in Washington to the Olympic National Forest. The Public Lands Committee of the House postponed further hearings until a subcommittee could view the situation on the ground this summer during the recess of Congress.

No decision has been reached and no hearings are scheduled on H.R. 2863, which provides for the protection of the Dall Sheep in Mt. McKinley National Park in Alaska.

No action is contemplated—at least for this session—on the Bill H.R. 2876 to establish the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Redwood Forest in California. The California State Legislature petitioned Congress not to pass this bill.

On the bill to abolish the Jackson Hole

National Monument in Wyoming, no action has been taken since the hearings some weeks ago. It is understood that a compromise is in the making which will be agreeable to the proponents of the bill.

No action has been taken by the committee on the Bill H.R. 2642 providing for a roadless area in Superior National Forest in Minnesota. This may come under the eyes of the subcommittee this summer after recess.

The Lea Bill (H.R. 107) providing for wildlife management (public shooting) areas in California has had a hearing and will be taken up at an executive meeting on June 11th.

A bill (S. 1363) has been introduced by Senator Knowland of California to establish the Patton National Monument in San Bernardino County, in honor of General George Patton and his gallant men.

Member's Handbook Scheduled

The long discussed story of the Sierra Club, what it is, what it has done, and what it can do, is well under way. The handbook, planned not so much to fit the hand as to fit the library shelf along with the *Bulletins*, is scheduled to appear as the November number of the *Sierra Club Bulletin*. The copies will arrive paper-bound (similar to the annual magazine number) unless members specify that they would prefer the permanence of cloth binding (at \$1 per copy).

Photographs are still being sought that will serve to illustrate the recapitulation of club properties and achievements. Suggestions are welcome, and should be addressed to the editor, who will pass them on to the committee chairmen who are contributing the various sections of the book.

We hope you have noticed a few of the changes in engineering of the annual magazine (*SCB*, May) now in your hands and that you are pleased. They aren't spectacular; we feel no need of spectacular changes. We ourselves are not pleased with the illustrations mechanically, but coated stock is not yet back to prewar quality.

The annual didn't quite make it in April; in fact, only the editors saw any copies in May. But we did catch up a little on the schedule, and hope to catch up more next year. Deadline for the February (repeat, February) 1948 annual magazine is Thanksgiving Day, 1947. The deadlines for the monthly numbers continue to fall on the 15th of the preceding month—barring legislative contingencies.

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The Olympic National Park

The lumber interests of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington, are again demanding that the remnant of the famous rain forest protected within the Olympic National Primeval Park be made available for logging. This local threat must be fought actively by the people of the nation if this superb park is to be preserved.

The housing shortage is the chief reason given for this demand today. A few years ago the cry was for the needs of war. The timber of the Olympic Forest is not sufficient to affect appreciably the national supply one way or the other. An article in the *West Coast Lumberman* in 1946 stated that there is sufficient timber in Oregon and Washington to build 73,000,000 five room houses, and, in point of fact large quantities of northwestern lumber are being exported abroad. Even were the forests of the national park opened to logging, the local sawmills could operate only a few years on them. The community is already finding new business channels. There is therefore no valid reason why the people of the United States should sacrifice one of their most magnificent nature reservations simply to keep a few sawmills operating for a few more years.

The attack on the Olympic Park forest is represented by several bills now before Congress. . . . Any boundary adjustments must be justified as being in the best interests of the park, not because of pressure from the lumber interests. To eliminate tracts of primeval forest . . . is not only undesirable, but would be making a concession to local demands in violation of the national interest. There is no assurance that the Olympic mills would not renew their agitation later on to secure more of the park forest. Furthermore, it could be an entering wedge leading to the eventual disintegration of the national park system in response to local demands. Accordingly, the National Parks Association is opposing all efforts to invade the park [and] recommends that interested organizations determine their policy on this question on the basis of the foregoing facts. When hearings are announced, every organization should present its views, to show the Committees on Public Lands that the people of the United States are determined that this superlative national park shall be preserved intact for ourselves and future generations.

DEVEREUX BUTCHER
Executive Secretary N.P.A.

How Are the Trails?

Members of the Sierra Club can help in trail maintenance by noting where trails are washed out, blocked by fallen trees or otherwise badly in need of repair; and on their return report the information to the High Sierra Trails Committee. The leaders of the various club outings should make such a re-

port. The Trail Committee can then screen and consolidate the reports received, and convey the information gathered to the Forest Service and the National Park Service for their attention in subsequent trail maintenance schedules.

W. A. STARR, Chairman

Bighorn Photos and Reports Wanted

The Committee on Mountain Sheep requests that club members and others traveling near the High Sierra Crest between Bishop Pass and the vicinity of Mount Langley be vigilant with the eye and camera in order that more information be acquired on the rare Sierra bighorn.

Since the last article appeared on this subject, in the 1942 annual *Bulletin*, interesting reports have been received from a number of members, including John M. Stokely, W. B. Treat, Thomas H. Jukes, Gerard Rosenblatt, and Edward M. Ford. These reports will be made part of an article on mountain sheep in the next annual. The committee is also interested in reports and photographs of the bighorn elsewhere in the state, as, for instance, in the Cucamonga and San Bernardino regions, in the White Mountains, and on other Inyo ranges.

Salon prints of the species are not necessary or expected and probably do not exist. The accompanying photograph is one of the



finest to have been submitted to the committee. The fortunate photographer was Wyllys Treat, who took the picture last July while climbing the west shoulder of Mount Langley from the High Trip camp on Rock Creek.

Charter Member Dies

Theodore S. Solomons, a charter member of the club and one of the early-day explorers of the High Sierra, died at his home in Hollywood the evening of May 26 from a heart attack. His passing was sudden, with no pain nor prolonged illness. He was active physically and mentally to the day of his death at

the age of 76. He leaves his widow, Yvonne Solomons, and several children, to whom club members extend deepest sympathy.

CHESTER VERSTEEG

[The next annual magazine will carry the detailed story of Solomons' contribution to Sierra history and exploration. Ed.]

San Gorgonio Protest Successful

Washington, June 18. The San Gorgonio primitive area remains practically unchanged as the result of a decision announced today by Lyle F. Watts, chief of the Forest Service, who said the Forest Service had come to the conclusion that the area has a higher

public value as a wilderness and a watershed than as a downhill skiing area.

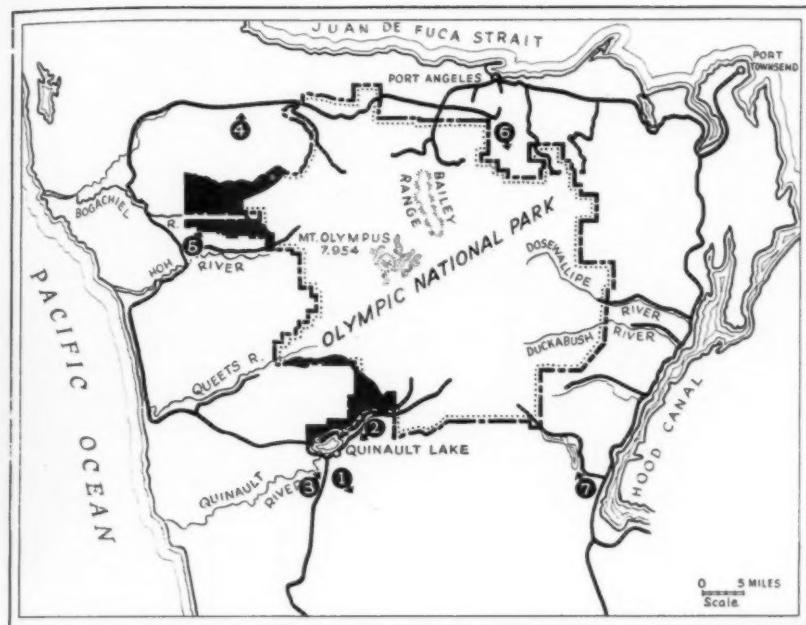
A 1400-acre modification will permit extension of the present road to Poopout Hill and will exclude several existing structures and roads. [Details will follow in July.]

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WHAT PRICE LUMBER?

A Bird's-Eye View of the Threat to Olympic National Park

Aerial photographs by Lowell Sumner, March, 1947

(Position of plane shown by numbered arrows on map.)

We all need lumber. We use it in one form or another a hundred times a day; these very pages are printed on a product of the forest. No one today can seriously and unhypocritically argue against the process of lumbering. We should be overly emotional to call each lumberjack a tree butcher, to call all cutover lands a shambles, or to ask the woodsman to spare every tree.

But we cannot, and we need not tolerate wanton lumbering, anywhere. It must not be tolerated for local needs in areas set aside as national primeval parks for all the people. And we must fight the various proposals—sugar-coated in varying degree—to expose to lumbering operations the virgin rain forests of Olympic National Park.

Elsewhere in these pages the complicated details of these proposals are given at some length. We should all like to be on the ground to see for ourselves what their effect would be on the park. But we don't have to be on the ground to recognize the principle that is being violated—the principle that an outstanding national scenic resource belongs to all the people, and not to the few whose investments adjoin it. We have said it about San Gorgonio, and we can say it again: the need for parks and for wilderness is going to increase, not diminish, as the population center moves westward, or as the population increases, regardless of whether it moves or not.

What manner of forest is this Olympic rain forest? How important is it to the park? Aided by recent aerial photographs of areas which the Park Service proposes to relinquish, we can reach a few conclusions for ourselves.



POINT DETONATION: BOMB CRATERS IN REVERSE (above). The scars of high-line logging in Olympic National Forest. More expensive logging methods would allow the forest to recover in good time. High-line dragging tears out young growth and plows up soil. Subsequent erosion on sloping ground strips the soil away—incompatible with sustained yield, unless by that term is meant "sustain the cutting until there is no more yield."

One cannot travel far in the Northwest without seeing too much evidence of the hurried logging methods that have sacrificed for a one-time gain what could have been a self-perpetuating resource.

QUINAULT LAKE (on facing page). This, a main entrance to the park, has been partly cut over. A mill can be seen in operation within the park boundary. With necessary additions to the park here (and no relinquishments), national-park protection can partly restore this critical area in a few decades. The alternative is shown in photographs that follow—scenic devastation in one more cut-over area in the state of Washington.

Those who now want to swing the ax in Olympic National Park will soon want to swing it again. It has been well said: "To be safe, resist the beginnings."





DEADMAN'S HILL (above), OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST. Is this sustained yield? It is explained that on this hill clear cutting was soon followed by destructive fire. (Such a cause-and-effect relationship is all too often seen.) Clear cutting permits the new "crop" (when it comes back) to be of uniform type and age. But forever after, those who view the area are subjected to the sight of periodic deforestation and the subsequent scenes of devastation that remain as long as the forest land lies fallow.

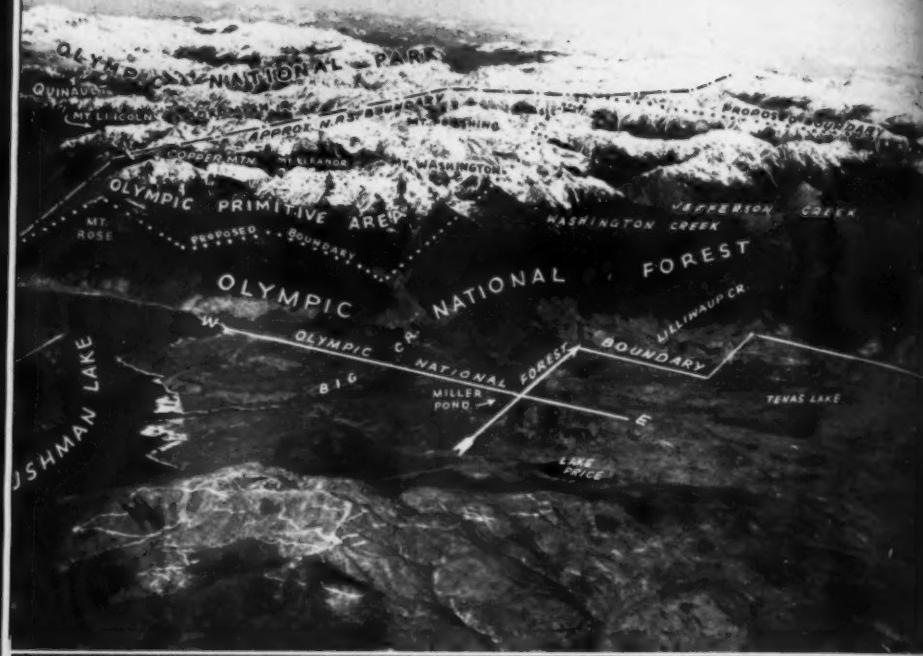
The wiping out of Olympic forests was a profitable venture. It kept mills busy and men employed. But the natural balance that had prospered that forest for century upon century was wiped out with it.

NORTH ACROSS THE BOGACHIEL-CALAWAH AREA (upper right). This is a magnificent example of valley rain forest and mountainside hemlock and fir. Must it be relinquished? Its elimination would ease the administration of the area, beyond question. Indeed, there would be no administrative problem—no road maintenance, no patrolling in outlying areas, no battling for necessary operating appropriations—if the entire park were abolished.

The first signs of hesitancy shown by the protectors of this salient of the park have amounted to an invitation to the predators to attack in force. There are five damaging Olympic bills before Congress.

MORSE CREEK, OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK (lower right). Private-land logging. There is precious little fringe of forest remaining—a narrow buffer strip between logged-over areas and the snow peaks. Full protection for this residual forest—unique on this continent—is not too much to ask.





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FROM ICE TO SALT WATER ALONG THE EASTERN BOUNDARY (facing page). The narrowness of the present forest fringe is here shockingly apparent. A living sea of forest is drying up. The West is at last finding out what it took the rest of the nation far too long to learn: our endowment of forest is not inexhaustible. Nevertheless, with an appalling record of wanton spending of our forest behind them, the timber interests want to float another loan of something they can never pay back—a loan of some of the last virgin forest.

But somewhere in this land the outstanding examples of virgin forest must be left as is, in just the way they have survived through the ages, in full dignity. There must be some sanctuary from the ax for a representative forest where a seed may sprout and become a sapling, weather the storms and centuries, and in time fall to earth, to return to dust, to nourish other seeds as it was nourished itself, in a soil of undiminished fertility.

There is such a sanctuary in Olympic National Park. It must not suffer harm.

OLYMPIC CHRONOLOGY

[Compiled from an article by Irving M. Clark in *The Living Wilderness*, June, 1947]

- 1876. John Muir proposed a national inquiry into the fearful wastage of forests to bring about conservation of publicly owned forest lands.
- 1890. The Olympic Peninsula comprised the greatest still unexplored area in the U.S. proper.
- 1897. Olympic Forest Reserve created by President Cleveland; 2,188,800 acres. In less than a week after the creation, mining, stock, and lumber companies secured a Senate amendment nullifying the forest reserves, the amendment dying in a pocket veto.
- 1901. One-fifth of the Reserve area eliminated for lumbering in four years, consisting of "the most heavily forested region in Washington."
- 1904. First agitation for a national park in the Olympics.
- 1909. Roosevelt established Mount Olympus National Monument.
- 1917. Under pretext of unbottling valuable minerals for World War I, half the monument was eliminated. The lumbermen profited; "there hasn't been so much as a miner's pick or shovel driven into that ground."
- 1935. Wallgren introduced a bill for the creation of Olympic National Park.
- 1938. Bill finally passed. Enactment had failed in the three previous successive sessions of Congress. The lumbermen were supported in opposition by U.S. Forest Service and State of Washington officials. Final victory was the first time in the history of the Territory or State of Washington that the people had ever prevailed against the lumber interests. Notable among local Park supporters: Washington State Grange, International Woodworkers' Assn., State Federation of Women's Clubs, Seattle Central Labor Council. Solid support was given by the State's Congressional delegation. There was vigorous national leadership and support by Interior Secretary Ickes, President Roosevelt, and Mrs. Rosalie Edge and Irving Brant of the Emergency Conservation Committee, as well as the country's leading conservation groups.
- 1940. Roosevelt completed the Park by making additions based on careful Park Service study and authorized by Congress.
- 1942. Raid on Olympic Sitka spruce attempted on pretext of World War II needs. Stopped by Secretary Ickes, who pointed out that spruce was available elsewhere.
- 1946. Another raid attempted, "for veterans' housing." Scotched by the lumbermen's own trade publication, which claimed there was enough timber in the Douglas fir region to build two houses for every U.S. family.
- 1947. The latest and most serious raid attempted.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

This is your battle. You are the final custodian of our natural scenic resources.

The line must be held in Olympic National Park. It doesn't matter whether or not you have seen Olympic National Park or ever hope to. The exploitative forces that can scuttle the national-park concept on the Olympic Peninsula can sink it anywhere on the Pacific Coast, in the Rockies, in the Southwest, in Maine or in Florida. They must be opposed emphatically and immediately.

Write now, today, to the member representing your region on the public lands committee of the House and the Senate; write also to your senators and representative. Send a copy of your letters to the Chairman of the Lands Committee and to your club, so that your arguments can be put to full use.

A former Secretary of the Interior once silenced a harassing opponent by saying, "There's a heap more to living than three meals a day." Until the day arrives that the people shall decide without reasonable doubt that he was wrong, and that national-park forests should be cut so that the cutters might eat, until the land becomes so impoverished that we must consume the last dollar's worth of our scenic preserves—until that day let the Olympic forest stand. Its timber will always be there should need for it be proved. Today's mistake of the conservationist, if it be a mistake, can be corrected at any time by the mere scratch of a president's pen on a bill from Congress. But let the timber operator overreach himself, and his error will be burned too deeply into the record.

We have parks today because yesterday's conservationists worked for them. It is your debt to the future to work for them now.

D.R.B.

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